

A  
VINDICATION  
OF THE  
Historical Account  
OF THE  
CONSPIRACIES  
BY THE  
Earls of Gowery,  
AGAINST  
K. JAMES the Sixth,  
Of Glorious Memory.  
FROM THE  
MISTAKES  
OF  
MR. JOHN ANDERSON,  
PREACHER at *Dumbarton*,  
IN HIS  
*Defence of Presbytery.*

By GEORGE Earl of CROMERTY.

EDINBURGH.

Printed and Sold by James W. & Sons, One of Her Majesty's  
Printers, in Scotland, at the *Book and Angel*. 1744.

Price 4 Pence

WILLIAM D. BATES

OF THE

Historical Account

OF THE

CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY

OF THE

REPUBLIC OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

BY WILLIAM D. BATES

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A  
**VINDICATION**  
OF THE  
**Historical Account of the  
Conspiracies by the Earls  
of Gowry, &c.**

**M**Y FRIEND R. *John Anderson*, Preacher at *Dumbarton*, has, in a late Book of his against Mr. *Rhind*, taken Occasion to send me some Advice and Corrections; both which are acceptable Things, and are to be receiv'd in the Spirit of Meekness (in whatever Spirit the Messenger be) since, as such, Charity should accept them as Motives to amend the Guilty; or, as Occasion to vindicate Truth and Innocence.

In his *Elogiums* on me be not in Jest, it would seem, that Mr. *John* is of Opinion

That to send his Counsels and Informations, by printing and publishing them to the World before he doth it to my self, is a respectful Method: Therefore in Imitation of a Doctor in his *Israel, Par pari referam.*

AND, in the First Place, I shall briefly give an Account of the Matter of Fact, and the Motives that induced me to write my *Historical Account of the CONSPIRACIES of the EARLS of Gowry.* From which Title, I did not conjecture, that Plurals so plainly and distinctly express'd; could have been so grossly mistaken by any Body (much less by a renown'd Author) for a Singular.

I did begin my Narrative with the most famous or rather infamous Treason, committed by *William Earl of Gowry*, in seising of the King's Sacred Person treacherously, join'd with arm'd Force, in the House of *Ruthven*; carrying him from thence to *Perth*; from *Perth* to *Stirling*; from *Stirling* to *Holy-rood-House*; from thence to *Perth* again; from *Perth* to *Faulkland*; and at last to *St. Andrew's*.

ALL this While, these Rebels did inhumanely force the King to write and sign Papers, declaring, That he was in full Freedom; That he was seisd by his own Consent; That *Gowry* (then the King's High-Treasurer) and his Accomplices in seising of the King, did good Service to GOD, to the reform'd Religion, and to their Country.

But



But that I may not speak without Book ; take it thus :

A General Assembly of the Kirk (without being call'd by the King) did sit at St. *Andrew's* on the 24th of *September* 1581; In which Assembly, very gross things were advanc'd against the King: Mr. *Andrew Melvil* did preach to the Assembly, and said ; *That the King's Authority* <sup>\* Scots</sup> *was the bloody* <sup>Dagger.</sup> *Gullie, whereby many intended to pull the Crown from off Christ's Head; and to wring the Scepter out of his Hand.* [vide *Calderwood's History* Fol. 121.] And contemptuously excommunicated Bishop *Montgomery* for obeying the King and Council's Acts and Orders. Ditto P. 126.

THAT Assembly presented the King with a Remonstrance, complaining, *That he did take upon him a Spiritual Power and Authority, which did belong to Christ, and to themselves Christ's Ministers: And, that the King was pressing to set up a new Popedom, for bereaving Christ of his Authority, &c.* The Earl of *Arran* (as I think) then Chancellor; asked, Who dar'd subscribe these treasonable Articles against the King? Mr. *Andrew Melvil* answer'd briskly; *We dare, and will subscribe it, and render our Lives in the Cause;* And immediately pluckt the Pen out of the Clerk's Hand, and subscrib'd the Paper. And then Mr. *Melvil* courageously invited all the Ministers to subscribe after him.

THIS Remonstrance was presented to the King and Council. *vid. Calderwood* Page 118 and 119. And since Mr. *Anderson* doth oft-times cite Bishop *Spotiswood's* History; so do I, Page 320 of his History.

ON this, the Mobb in *Edinburgh* did arise, arm'd with Battons, Stones and rotten Eggs, and invaded the King's Council where they were sitting. *Ibid.*

THE King did order his Chamberlain and Chief Justices, by His Commission, to enquire after the Authors and Actors of that Mob, and to do Justice therein: So accordingly a Warrant was issued on the 2d of *August* 1582; and some Ministers were summon'd to compear before that Court on the 6th of *August*: Yet the King, who was more desirous of their Repentance than of their Punishment, did prorogue the Diet.

ON the 20th of *August*, the King having come from a Hunting at *Athol*, towards *Perth*; was seis'd by *William* Earl of *Gowrie* and his Accomplices; and carried to *Ruthven-House*. His Servants removed from about him, and others placed in their Stations as they thought fit. Where (in humble Derision) *Gowrie* and the rest did present His Majesty with a Petition, in their own Names, and in the Name of the whole Body of the Commonwealth; and particularly, in Name of the Ministers of the  
N.B. *Blessed Evangel*; bearing, That his Majesty



Majesty should not take it in ill Part, that  
 they had us'd him so, because of the *Good*  
*Cause*: And then forc'd Him to subscribe a  
 Proclamation, declaring, That what *Gowrie*  
 and his Party did, was by His own free Will;  
 and that nothing was attempted against him  
 by *Gowrie* and his Party, but what did be-  
 come them as their Duty, and which he  
 Himself allowed, as good Service done to  
 Himself and the Commonwealth. This Pro-  
 clamations was sent to *Edinburgh* to the Lords,  
 (*Gowrie's* Accomplices) and was by them  
 proclaim'd at the Cross of *Edinburgh* 1582:  
 And also on the 12th of *September* that Year,  
 Three other Proclamations were made by  
 them at the Cross of *Edinburgh*: The First,  
 discharging the King's Chamberlains and Ju-  
 stice-Courts lately commission'd by Him.  
 The Second, declaring, That the King was  
 a free Man at *Stirling*, tho' at the same Time  
 he was kept close Prisoner by these Lords.  
 The Third Proclamation, declar'd the true  
 Liberty of the Kirk's Meetings and Assem-  
 blies, notwithstanding the King's Proclama-  
 tions prohibiting or limiting the same. And,  
 about the End of *September* that Year, these  
 Lords emitted a Declaration against the  
 King's making himself and his Council Judg-  
 es in the Cognition of Matters Ecclesiastical,  
 or so much as to stop or delay the Sentence  
 of a General Assembly, *Calderwood*, Page  
 129, 130 and 131.

IN a General Assembly at *Edinburgh*, the 9th of *October* 1582, *Gowrie* and his Accomplices inform'd that General Assembly of the Grounds which mov'd them to make the King a Prisoner at *Ruthven*; and to act as they did by their Acts and Proclamations; And desired the Assembly to send their Approbation thereof, and to publish the same.

THIS Desire being well considered by the Assembly, they with full Consent and Vote declared, That the Information given by the Lords *was true*; and also sent several other Ministers to the King (O! impudent Insolence) desiring His own Approbation of *what the Lords and They had done*. And the King being Prisoner in the Hands of these Rebels, he was forc'd to sign, and order the same to be proclaim'd. *Ibid.* Page 133.

AND further, the Assembly commissioned some of their Brethren to draw Articles, declaring the Power of the Assembly and Presbytery, in and by themselves, and by themselves *only*; to meddle in placing and displacing of Ministers, or to intermeddle in Ministers Livings, Stipends or Offices: Or to disannul or stop Church Censures: That they had the sole and only Power, to Designs, Manfes and Gleibs for Ministers: And that no Burials be made within Churches. And then they did enact, that the Acts of  
Privy-



Privy-Council against *John Dury*, one N. B.  
of their Ministers, *be deleted and rans-*  
*vers'd*; and that the Acts of Council, and o-  
ther Acts indefinitely, made concerning the  
King's absolute Power, *be delete, and never*  
*to be remembred thereafter.* *Ibid.* Page 136.  
And this General Assembly, by an Act, own  
and declare, That what *Gowrie* and the o-  
ther Lords REFORMERS (for so they  
piously call'd them) against the King at  
*Ruthven*; was *honest and lawful Service.*  
*Ibid.* Page 139.

THE King being carried by the Lords  
from *Stirling* to *Faulkland*, and then to  
*St. Andrew's*; did from thence happily make  
his Escape in *June* 1583: And on the 28th  
of *June* the King emitted a publick Decla-  
ration, proclaiming how he was treasonably  
forc'd to make all the foresaid Proclama-  
tions, Declarations and Grants: And the loy-  
al Nobility and Gentry flocking about the  
King; he comes to *Edinburgh*, and calls to  
him his legal and establish'd Council: But  
the Lords REFORMERS (as the As-  
sembly call'd them) did flee the Kingdom or  
lurk secretly.

THE first Thing they did, was to order  
the fore-mentioned Mr. *John Dury* (who was  
remov'd from *Edinburgh* by the King and  
Council for some seditious Speeches, but had  
been re-call'd by the foresaid Assembly and  
Lords Reformers when the King was Pri-  
soner)

soner) to be again removed; which he did very submissly obey, and retired (as I think) to *Montrose*. He was One of the best natured of the Gang; altho' in the Beginning of *Gowrie's* Commotions he was too active in supporting these Rebellions; and being One of the best qualified amongst them, did much Hurt: Which he not only deeply repented, and declared so; spending his last Breath in advising his Brethren to *Loyalty*; and to comply with the King in restoring of *Prelacy*; as severals do relate; and Mr. *Anderson* doth candidly own in the 318 and 319 Pages of his *Defence*. But was his Repentance and Acknowledgments a Proof, that he was not guilty of those Things he repented of? Or, *è contra*? *Cald.* Pag. 143: *Spot.* Pag. 329; And Mr. *Anderson ditto loco*. So that this *Musca* was not unworthy of an *Aquila's* Notice.

I shall now come to the next of Mr. *Anderson's* Clients, *viz.* Mr. *Andrew Melvil*; who (beside what is already mentioned) in the Beginning of *February*, being summon'd before the Secret-Council, for Treasonable Speeches, did not appear; but sent Two of his Disciples, *viz.* Mr. *Robert Bruce* and Mr. *Robert Wilkie*, from St. *Andrew's*, with a Testification (forsooth) of his Innocence. But repenting of so moderate a Defence, immediately thereafter emitted a Declaration, came  
to



to *Edinburgh*, and presented a Declinature of the King and Council's Authority, as incompetent Judges; in *Anno 1584*. Yet the King and Council did not proceed with any Passion, or commit him to Prison from the Bar; but in a gentler Way, did order him only to enter himself into the Castles of *Edinburgh* or *Blackness*. And in return to this kind Treatment, he fled that Night, and was convoy'd by his Party to *Berwick*. The rest of the Clergy at *Edinburgh* (whom, with Mr. *Anderson's* Leave, I may call *Presbyterians*) did the next *Sunday* and thereafter in their Sermons, found forth Mr. *Melvil's* Praises, praying for him by his Name expressly, as a *Sufferer for the Cause*.

THE Convention of Estates at *Edinburgh*, declared the Fact of *Gowry* and the Lords at *Ruthen*, to be High-Treason: And on the 2d of *March 1584*, emitted Charges against the Earl of *Gowrie* and the other Lords, to remove out of the Realm, for His Majesty's Security. *Cald. Pag. 147*. And tho' the King did graciously grant a Remission to *Gowrie*: Yet this did not stop him from treasonable Practices against the King: For at the same Time, he and his Accomplices did frame a Design for seising of the King's Castle of *Stirling*, whilst *Gowrie* was to raise a Rebellion be *North Tay*; and for carrying on the same, he was lurking at *Dundee*: And accor-

dingly

dingly his Accomplices, on the 7th of *April* 1584, did seise the King's Castle of *Stirling*.

THE King, some Days before, having Intelligence where *Gowrie* was; and having evident Information of his Practices, caused seise *Gowrie* in *Dundee*, and secur'd him in the Castle of *Kenniel*. Thereafter the King with the loyal Nobility and Gentry of *Angus*, *Lothian* and *Fife*, and Others from *Athol* and *Stirling-Shire*, did march to *Stirling*, under the King's Banner. Whereupon all *Gowry's* Accomplices, who were without the Castle, fled to *Berwick*; and on the 28th of *April* the Castle of *Stirling* was surrendred; the Captain and other Three of the Garison were hang'd, and the rest pardon'd.

BUT the King perceiving, that the Heads of this *Hydra* did increase, and that *Gowry* was always one, notwithstanding his Remissions; the next Day after the Castle of *Stirling* was surrendred, being the 29th of *April*, the Earl of *Gowry* was brought from *Kenniel* to *Sterling*: Where, by the Justice-Court and a Jury of his Peers, a great Part of whom were his own nearest Relations; he was, on Evidences of his own Hand-Writ, and Depositions of famous Witnesses, condemned and put to Death. The authentick Records of the Court, the Writs under *Gowry's* Hand, the Depositions of the Witnesses, and the fore-mentioned Histories, are the evident Avouchers of all that I have written.

Now



Now that Mr. *Dury*, *Rollock*, *Davidson*, *Balcanqual*, *Melvil*, *Bruce* and Others, were eminent Leaders in the Assembly and Church-Judicatures from the Year 1581 to the Year 1585 *inclusive*, yea, and thereafter, is a Glory which; I am perswaded, Mr. *Anderson* and those of his Kidney, will not refuse to these Patriots and Confessors, no not to *Rollock* and *Dury*, unless they turn Apostates; and if they should, the whole Records and Historians of the Kirk, *Knox*, *Calderwood* and *Petry*, will give them the Lie; and will evidently prove, that *they* and with them *many General Assemblies*, and, as they say themselves, many of them *with one Consent*, did support the Actings of *William* Earl of *Gowry* and his Accomplices, as most virtuous, religious, legal and dutiful, and as highly conducing to advance the reform'd Religion in *Scotland*. And so, tho' they were either converted or died before the Year 1588; yet they had Opportunity, and did take it, to reproach the King for Tyranny, Cruelty, Perfidy, Treachery and Impiety in his Proceedings, and in the Sentences of the Earls of *Gowry* for their Conspiracies (for these are my express Words as related by Mr. *Anderson*) as the other Epithets given to King *James* the Sixth in the Testimonies faithfully cited by me out of the Records and Church Histories above-mentioned are also manifest.

AND thus far I hope it is evinc'd, that the Presbyterian Assemblies and Synods (of which not only *Rollock, Dury, Davidson, &c.* were eminent Members, and acted as such in the Year 1581 to the Year 1586) did support and approve the Actings of *William* Earl of Gowry's Conspiracies. And I shall as evidently evince how the other Two mention'd by me, *viz. Melvil* and *Bruce* did vigorously sustain the same Character in supporting the Progress of the Conspiracies of *John* Earl of Gowry and his Brother. I shall continue to take my Testimonies from *Calderwood*.

THO' what is above said, doth clearly evince, That not only a few particular Presbyterian Ministers, but *too too many*, and sometimes *Assemblies* and *Synods*, did concur passionately to load the King with Imputations, and to insert Vindications of Gowry's Conspiracies: And because they did know (for it was the publick Theme oft agitated in their Assemblies and Synods) that the King's Favours to the Duke of *Lenox*, was the Motive which did mostly move Gowry and his Accomplices, to enter into their seditious Practices against the King; They appointed a General Assembly to meet at *Edinburgh*, some few Weeks before the Time that Gowry and his Accomplices were to break out into their Rebellion. For, as *Calderwood* tells,



Page 427, the Assembly met at *Edinburgh* on the 17th of *June*, Anno 1582, where *Melvil* was chosen *Moderator*: And amongst the first and chief Things, they take the Duke of *Lenox* in task; because, forsooth, he did admit *Mr. Robert Montgomery* (whom the King had lately made a Bishop) *into his Company*, they having excommunicated *Montgomery* for accepting of the Bishoprick; and requiring the Duke to forbear *conversing* with him; certifying him, that if he did not, the *Kirk* would proceed to *censure* the Duke, according to *their Acts*, if he disobeyed.

At the sitting of the Assembly, *Mr. John Dury* complains, how he was call'd before the King and Council, and charged by Them to remove from the Town; and asked their Advice, *Whether he should obey or not?* But withal tells them, that his own Determination was, *Not to obey*. The Duke of *Lenox* return'd Answers to the Assembly by some of their Number; That he was commanded by the King and His Council, to commune with *Mr. Robert Montgomery*; which he thought he was *oblig'd to obey*. Whereupon the Assembly considering the Duke's Answer, they commissioned several of their Brethren, to proceed against the Duke with the Censures of the Church; and at the same Time, they gave Commission to others of their Number, to complain to His Majesty of *Himself*; plainly accusing him, That His Majesty, by  
Advice

Advice of evil Counsellors, (no doubt meaning the Duke and Chancellor) *had invaded Christ's Spiritual Power; which was to set up a new Popedom in His Person; and particularly, by banishing John Durie from Edinburgh; and a Number of other Accusations; and this they sent to the King, by some of their Brethren.*

It was at this Time, they presented the Address to the King in Council at *Perth*; when the Chancellor asked, Who dar'd subscribe such Accusations against the King? Mr. *Andrew Melvil* boldly answer'd, as is before mention'd, *We dare, &c. Calderwood, Pag. 430 and 431. Calderwood, ibid.* doth reprehend Bishop *Spotiswood*, for omitting this *notable Passage.*

THE Assembly adjourn'd to the 24th of *October*, at *Edinburgh*: But *Calderwood* tells, *ibidem*, That thereafter, the Town of *Edinburgh* did bring back their Minister, *John Durie*, (who was banish'd by the King and Council) to *Edinburgh* again, in a *Triumphant Mob*; singing, as they went up the Street, the 124 *Psalm.*

THE King came to *Edinburgh* in *October*, to meet the Assembly. One of their first Acts was, to summon before them the King's Advocate; with Certification, to be censur'd, if he did not compear: His Crime was, for forming a Proclamation appointed by the King. But this is told by *Calderwood*,



Page 431; after he had gently mention'd the *Rebellion* at the House of *Ruthven*, calling it, *A Change of the King's Court at Ruthven*; which was on the 3d Day of *August*, 1582: "Where (*he says*) some of the Nobility, for the Defence of Religion, and the Liberty of the Kingdom, plac'd themselves about the King; where the Chancellor was made Prisoner; and the Duke of *Lenox* chas'd to *France*; and the King was brought by the Lords to *Holy-rood-house*, and was forc'd to give a Commission to the Provost of *Edinburgh* and others, to go and Countenance the Assembly. *Cald. Pag. 432.*

If this was not a direct Countenancing of *Gowrie's* Sedition and Rebellion, not only by some, but by many Presbyterian Ministers; (whom I had not mentioned, if not forc'd to it by Mr. *Anderson's* Book) let the World judge.

BUT if this be not enough, take these few additional Evidences: First, Some Passages abstracted out of the General Assembly's Ratification of the Attempt at *Ruthven*; as it stands upon Record, and related by Bishop *Spotswood*, Pag. 322.

THE Assembly having first voted an Approbation of the Lords Proceedings at *Ruthven*, they sent to know the King's own Mind of the Lords Actings; well knowing, that the King, being close Prisoner by the Lords, at *Holy-rood-house*, no Person having Access

to Him: no not a menial Servant, without exprefs Leave from the Rebels; behov'd therefore to fay and fign as the Lords did order Him; being both a Prifoner, and at this Time only Seventeen Years of Age.

AND accordingly He did fign a Paper, fuch as they desired: Whereupon, on the 13. of *October* 1582, the Affembly pafs'd an Act, wherein they narrate: " For as much as the  
 " Noblemen, and others joined with them in  
 " the late Action of Reformation; (*Here re-*  
 " *peating what the Lords had represented to*  
 " *them*) The Affembly did exprefly declare,  
 " That in the Fear of God, and after mature  
 " Deliberation, they refolved, found and vo-  
 " ted, (no Man gain-faying) That the Church  
 " of God, the true Religion, and the King,  
 " were in extreme Danger, &c. And that  
 " therefore the Affembly could not but think  
 " that the faids Lords (*meaning Gowry and*  
 " *his Accomplices*) have done good and ac-  
 " ceptable Service to God, to their Sovereign  
 " and native Country: And that the Profe-  
 " cution thereof will be acceptable to all that  
 " fear God, &c. And to the Effect that the  
 " fame may be made more manifold and no-  
 " torious; it is expedient, that all the Mini-  
 " fters within the Realm, fhall publickly de-  
 " clare to their particular Flocks, the Peril  
 " of Religion, and of the King; and the  
 " Grounds which mov'd the faid Noblemen  
 " to that Action; exhorting all who tender  
 " the



the Glory of GOD, — faithfully to con-  
 cur and join with the said Lords, in pro-  
 secuting the same, till the full Deliverance  
 of the Church. — And if any be found to  
 oppose that good Cause, that they be pro-  
 ceeded against, with Church-Censures;  
 and, if obstinate, that they be taken and  
 deliver'd to the King and Council.

BUT on the 28th of January 1583, the  
 King makes His Escape from the Lords at  
 St. Andrew's: Many of the Loyal Nobility  
 and Gentry resorted to Him, and Gowne  
 coming along with them, and falling on his  
 Knees, begged Pardon; which the King  
 (after a Reproof given) did immediately grant.

THE King, to show Himself at Liberty,  
 went to Edinburgh, and then to Perth,  
 where He emitted and publish'd a Declara-  
 tion, containing briefly, *That howsoever, for  
 preserving of publick Quiet, We did patiently  
 endure the Restraint of Our Person at  
 Ruthven; with the secluding of Our Coun-  
 sellors from Us; and what ensued thereupon.  
 Yet did We take it deeply to Heart; taking  
 it as a most treasonable Fact, attending till  
 GOD pleas'd to restore Us to Our Liberty.  
 Which having now obtain'd, to show that We  
 do not mean the Ruin of any Person; We  
 have resolved to forgive and forget all Offen-  
 ses bygone; especially that committed in Au-  
 gust last, and which hath been ever since  
 strongly maintain'd; providing, That the A-*

Others do show themselves penitents, ask Pardon timeously, and do not provoke Us by future Actions, to remember that Attempt. Willing all Our Subjects, in Example of Our Clemency, to discharge all Quarrels amongst themselves; all which We will have buried in Oblivion. And have order'd Publication to be made hereof.

Gowrie remain'd still with the King; but many of the rest of the Rebels were, by publick Proclamation, order'd to Confinement, in several Places; yet not one of them, except the Earl of Angus, did give Obedience, but fled to several Places, and did fall into new seditious Practices.

In October 1583, the General Assembly of the Kirk did meet at Edinburgh, and did begin where they left; representing the Dangers of Papists about the King; and of denouncing their Friends the Lords, Rebels; and allowing the Chancellor to come to Court.

But (unhappily for them) the Duke of Lenox, who was the chief Person they aim'd at, died on the 26th of May 1583, at Paris; having, by his Fatigue and tender Constitution, when he was forc'd to flee from the Kirk's Persecution in Winter Weather, contracted a Fever, shortly after his Arrival. And, as Bishop Spotswood says, some Hours before his expiring, there came to him a

Priest



Priest or Two, offering to do their ordinary Service for him; whom he would not admit, professing openly, *That he did die in the Faith of the Church of Scotland, to which he had given his Oath.*

THE Kirk makes new Addresses to the King, especially to make Choice of His Servants *by their Advice*; which He did not comply with. The King call'd a Convention of the Estates to *Edinburgh*; And, because the fugitive Lords did pretend, that the Diet allowed for their Compearance, was short; therefore, before this Time, the Diet for the Appearance of the Lords was prorogued; tho' to no Purpose, for none of them did appear.

WHEREUPON the Convention of States emitted a Declaration against them: And, albeit the King had given a Remission to the Earl of *Gowrie*, and kept him about his Person; yet the Earl, enter'd into a *new* Conspiracy with his *former* Accomplices, for surprising of the King's Castles, and rising in Arms. *Calderwood, Pag. 148 and 149.*

THE King desir'd the Assembly, then sitting at *St. Andrew's*, in *April 1584.* to declare against the treasonable Fact at *Ruthven*; which they *refus'd* to do, and further, *ap-prov'd* thereof. *Calderwood, Page 151.*

It were tedious even to mention, what the *particular* Ministers, as private Persons, and what the *Assemblies* and *Synods* did, in

the whole Tract of Time, from *Gowry's Execution Anno 1584* to the Year 1600. Declare, Proclaim, Preach and Pray *against* the King, and in *Favour* of the Rebellion at *Rutbven*. But it is to be found in the whole Tract of *Calderwood's History*, from the Page 358, to the Page 443.

ONE particular Passage is worth Notice, and that is concerning Mr. *David Black*, one of the seditious Ministers: He being accus'd for seditious Speeches, reflecting upon the King, *Anno 1596*, which were *clear Points of Treason and Sedition*, and so found by all the Civil Judicatures of the Nation; Yet the General Assembly upon the 12th of *November 1596*. resolv'd, *That Mr. David Black, shall decline the Judicatories of the King and Council*; and determin'd, *That the Judgment of every Doctrine WHATSOEVER; pertaineth to the Pastors of the Kirk, in prima instantia*.

THIS was given in, *by Word of Mouth*: But on 17th of *November*, they considering that what was spoken, may be forgot; therefore they resolv'd, *That the Declinature, should be given in, in Writ*; and that the *Whole Brethren*, for testifying their Approbation, should put their *Hands* to it, *Calderwood* Page 336, which was done accordingly. And on the 20th of *November*, they directed *Letters*, to all the *Presbyteries*; requiring them to subscribe it *also*: And they sent Mr.

David



David Lindsay, J. Nicolson, Robert Rollock, and J. Melvil, to speak with the King on the Matter; who told them, That if they would declare, that their Declinature was not a declining of His Power in general; but, a Particular of *Discipline*; or if the Accusation were in a Cause of *Slander* pertaining *rightly* to the Kirk; He would pass from the Summons against Mr. Black; *Calderwood* Page 340. A Draught of a Declaration was fram'd; but so unintelligibly, that they were asham'd to present it: But made this Offer *verbally*; That if the King, would pass from Mr. Black; and likewise, set down an *Act of Referente*; and cease from all Pursuits against Mr. Black; and all Ministers; for *what* they said in their *Preachings*; until first a lawful General Assembly were call'd: On *that* Condition they would take up their Declinature.

THE King rejected their Proposition. Whereupon, the Commissioners of the Kirk conven'd, and ordain'd the Ministers of *Edinburgh*, to preach *mightily* against the said *Power* in the King and Council; declaring, That the Pastors of the Kirk are not to be answerable to *any* King or Prince earthly; and not to be *controul'd* by them, *Calderwood*, Page 341 and 342. And accordingly, Mr. Black did give in a *full* Declinature, the foremention'd Ministers being present.

UPON which the King and Council did give this Interlocutor, all in one Voice, *That they find themselves Judges competent to all Causes, Criminal or Civil, concerning the Ministry, or others whatsoever his Highness's Subjects; because these Crimes are treasonable and seditious; whereunto the Kirk and Presbyteries are not Judges competent.*

THE Brethren did meet, and thought good that the Doctrine of their Preachers should be directed expressly against *this Interlocutor*, as against a strong and mighty Hold, set up against the Lord Jesus, for overthrowing the Freedom of the Gospel.

THE King sent His Treasurer, and the Provost of Edinburgh, to desire a further Conference with Mr. Bruce, Rollock, Melvil and Nicolson; and to tell them, That notwithstanding His Majesty and Council had found *Themselves* Judges, and admitted Witnesses in the Case; yet He intended no Rigour; but would pardon Mr. Black, if he would come and ask it. They answered, *That the Interlocutor was against Christ's Authority and Power; and therefore if it were retreated, they would again expose themselves to the Hazard of their Lives.* Then the King sent a Gentleman of the Bed-Chamber, and desired the Ministers to be calm for that Day, till he might speak with them, and probably he would satisfy them.



THEY returned for Answer, That they could not delay; for the Minister who was appointed to preach, had God to answer to and his Brethren; whom he could not offend, for pleasuring all the Kings of the Earth. Cald. Pag. 348, 349, and 350.

ALL this went on in a Tract of libelling, and preaching against the King, for weakning of His Reputation and Authority, and to Strengthen the Hands of the seditious Lords; as is to be seen at full Length in Calderwood's History for the Years 1596, 1597, 1598, and 1599, until the 5th of August 1600: At which Time, John Earl of Gowry and his Brother, having treasonably design'd to take the King's Life at Perth, in the Manner as I have narrated in that little Abstract, containing such evident and incontestible Proofs, as I presume hath convinc'd all Readers of the Truth of the Facts.

AND as Mr. Anderson, Page 322, declares, That he doth not design by these Remarks, to derogate in the least from the Truth of the Conspiracy: Adding, That in the Light wherein it now stands, he cannot conceive why any Man should suspect it.

*Magna est Veritas, & vincit.*

MR. Anderson hath in this confirmed all what I designed in my Abstract. I am glad if I have been instrumental to Vindicate the Honour

Honour of the ROYAL FAMILY from the Malice of Whisperers, or rather loud Proclaimers and Preachers, in Favours of the Earls of *Gowry* their Conspiracies.

AND if the printed Abstract of that Process hath evinced the Truth, or convinced a Sect, who have made it a great Part of their Work, and Exercise of their Wit, to vindicate the First Earl of *Gowrie's* Conspiracy at *Ruthven*; yea to cry it up as a *pious* and *religious* Undertaking; and a great Example, for either Noblemen or Ministers, to *commit Treason* and *raise Sedition*. And if it do now appear clearly, that, in Prosecution of the Treason committed by *Gowrie* the *Father*, his Two Sons did intend and endeavour to *Murder* the King at *Perth*; and so to equal, if not to out-do the Father's Crimes: I say, that if this be fully evinced (as I hope, and as Mr. *Anderson* owns that it is so) then, if I had by Mistake, or Mis-information, nam'd a Person or Two, more guilty than those Ministers were; or, if I had asserted, That the Crimes committed by them whilst *alive*, had been done by them after they were *dead*: It were an Error in Chronology indeed; but not so great a Crime, as to provoke a learned Man to make so *little* a Mistake a Subject of his Study, to *find it out*, or to *make it One*.

BUT I having, from *Calderwood's* and *Petty's* Histories, sufficiently proved, that these

Four



~~Four~~ and other Presbyterian Ministers, did sustain and maintain *William Earl of Gowrie's* Conspiracies; and that *Rollock* and *Dury* were *Two* of these: Let us see, whether these very Ministers and Assemblies, did alleviate or aggravate their Crime, on the Occurrent of *John Earl of Gowrie's* Prosecution of his Father's Treason. I shall continue to take my Testimonies from *Calderwood*.

MR. *David Lindsay*, a Presbyterian Minister, who had been at *Faulkland*, and had heard the King relate the Story of *John Earl of Gowrie's* Fact, was sent with an Account thereof to the Lords of Council; The Lords, with the Magistrates, went presently to the Market-Cross of *Edinburgh*, where Mr. *Lindsay* in a Harangue declar'd the Fact. The People were all transported with Joy, and gave all Demonstrations thereof.

THE Conspiracy was on the 5th of *August* 1600. Mr. *David Lindsay* came to the Lords on the 6th of *August*: The Council desir'd the Ministers of *Edinburgh* to go to the Kirk and praise GOD for the King's wondrous Deliverance from so vile a Treason. But they answer'd, *That they were not certain of the Treason*.

MR. *Calderwood* doth carefully observe in his History, Page 443. (as if it were to reprobate the Truth of the History) "That the armed Man, *alleg'd* (*says he*) to have assisted Mr. *Alexander* to kill the King, was  
" by

by some nam'd *Oliphant*, and describ'd to be a black grim Man. Then (*adds he*) that soon after they call'd that Man *Lesly*. And the Third Report (*says he*) call'd him *Younger*. And *Calderwood* observes, that *Younger* was then at *Dundee*.

Now, why these silly Observations? even to derogate from the Truth of the History.

ON the 12th of *August* the Ministers of *Edinburgh* were call'd before the King and Council, where the King asked Mr. *Robert Bruce* (who was Speaker for the Rest) Why they disobeyed Him and His Council, and would not praise GOD for His Delivery? They answer'd, They had not disobey'd, and were ready to praise GOD for His Delivery in *General*, but could not condescend in *Particulars*. The King said, Have you not heard Me tell it? Have you not heard the Earl of *Mar*, who was Witness to the Facts? Have you not heard Mr. *Lindsay* and My whole Council? Mr. *Bruce* answer'd, Sir, I would have further Light, before I offer'd to persuade the People. One *Balfour*, and one *Watson* said, They were not persuaded.

*Calderwood*, Page 444, says, That the *alleg'd* Attempt came forth in Print: [*Nota Alleged.*]

ON the 5th of *September*, the Ministers were call'd before the King and Council, for their obstinate refusing to give Thanks



Thanks; and thereby perswading the People to doubt of the Truth of it. Mr. Robert Bruce said plainly to the King, *That if Henderson (who was the Person that should have kill'd the King, and did confess it) would die confessing that, I will believe in* Sir David Murray, interrupting him, said, *Will you believe a condemn'd Man better than the King or Council?* Bruce answer'd, *If he die penitent, I will trust him.* For which he was banished.

In the Year 1602. Mr. Robert Bruce continued obstinate as to the not thanking of GOD for the King's Delivery; giving this Excuse for himself, *That Henderson's Life was spar'd; and said, What he would say, would rather increase than diminish the Slander.* Calderwood, Page 458. And so he continued Anno 1603. Calderwood, Page 470.

But let us see the Import of what Mr. Anderson says in his little Discourse as to me. He says, Page 319, *That he cannot find in any History, that Mr. Melville made any Noise about that Matter.* And, at Mr. Anderson's Desire, I have marked the foresaid Author Calderwood frequently; and now I add every, as Concurrent almost in every Passage. He acknowledges *Ibid.* That Mr. Bruce did refuse to give publick Thanks for the King's Deliverance; but said, *That he would reverence His Majesty's Reports of that Accident; but would not say he was perswaded* of

of the Truth of it. This was very civilly to give the Lie to the King; tho' Mr. Anderson in the last Line of that Page, calls it only a *Weakness*: And in the next Page, he very plainly insinuates, and calls me to witness, That there are several Circumstances in the Stories of that Conspiracy, which are not perfectly clear, but what requires Time to believe them. Where indeed I differ from his Opinion of the Evidence. And he would gladly turn over the Truth of the Conspiracy on Mr. Rubben's *Madness*. I will grant him his Conclusion in the First Paragraph, Page 320, viz. That there is a great Odds betwixt Contradicting a Report, and being reverently Silent about it. And I hope so will he grant to me, That there is great Difference betwixt a reverent Silence and a malicious Sullenness.

I do seriously regret his obliging of me to to lay open so many Associates in calumniating of our ROYAL FAMILY. What Injury hath our good Queen done to provoke them thus to tax and belie Her Great Grandfather? What Provocation hath the Illustrious Prince of Sophia given them, thus to cast Dirt upon the Memory of her Grandfather? I do sincerely declare, That if I had lied upon Duty or Religion, as I am accused of, I would not only confess, but make Amends, as well as I could, and ask Pardon for the Lie, and for my not adding the Letter A to the Word *Gawrie*, which



I know not if Mr. *Anderson* will be at the Pains to scribble more on this Subject: I am sure I shall not. I think my Proofs *relevant*: My Avouchers are their own *chief* Historians and *best* Records: And in a Postscript I shall add some very impartial Asserters of the same Truth: And then if any will not acquiesce,

*Qui vult decipi, decipiatur.*

*A few Abstracts of many mentioned in our Histories, relating to the foresaid Matter.*

**J**AMES GIBSON Minister of *Pentlands*, in the Year 1585, in the Pulpit at *Edinburgh*, said, That Captain *James*, with his Lady *Jezebel*, and *William Stewart*, were taken to be the *Persecutors* of the Church; but now it was seen to be the *King Himself*; against Whom he denounc'd the Curse that fell on *Jeroboam*, that He should die *childless*, and be the last of His Race. Gibson confess'd these Speeches before the Council, and proudly

*main-*

*maintain'd them*. The Council committed him to Prison, and refer'd his Ecclesiastick Censure to the Kirk; and so he was let out of Prison.

THIS was on the Occasion of a new Stir made by the *Lords Reformers*, under the Earl of *Bothwell*; who having emitted a Declaration, That they did rise in Arms for *Defence of the Truth*, and for delivering of the King from *corrupt Counsellors*, and to take in the Castle of *Stirling*. The King call'd a Parliament to *Linlithgow*. The Lords submitting were pardon'd; and an Act of Parliament was pass'd, prohibiting all Persons, either publicly or privately, to reproach His Majesty's *Person, Estate, or Government*: Whereat the Ministers of the Kirk were greatly offended; and appointed one Mr. *William Watson* to preach before the King, and to condemn the Act of Parliament. The Council committed him to Prison in *Blackness*. Yet the well-natur'd King, on his bare *Promise* to carry more dutifully thereafter, did release him, and sent him back to his own Charge. But the other Bravo, *Gibson*, both confest and maintain'd what he said, *ut supra*.

But in the Assembly 1587. the Chancellor did put the Assembly in mind, That the King did expect *Reparation* of the Offence given by Mr. *Gibson*, whom the King had let out of Prison on his Promise, that he should give



give Satisfaction at the Church's Sight. Whereupon *Gibson* was call'd, who boldly said, That it was true that he had promis'd in his *Weakness and Infirmary*, and *confess'd* a Fault; but that his *Conscience* did tell him, *He had not spoken any Thing that was wrong*. The Assembly did vote him censurable: But when they did meet in the Afternoon to inflict the Censure, he contumaciously absented: For which Contumacy, he was suspended during the Assembly's Pleasure. But in *August* thereafter, he appear'd before the Assembly; and told, That he was not absent formerly upon *Contempt*, but for the Care he had of the *Church's Peace*.

UPON this Declaration, without further, and not so much as *acquainting* the King, he was purg'd of Contumacy, and so dismiss'd. All this is at more Length in Bishop *Spotiswood's* History, Pag. 343, 367, and 368.

BUT *Calderwood*, in his *true* History of the Church of *Scotland*, does explicate this Matter further; That in the Year 1585, a Parliament was appointed by the King; and therefore the Moderator of the last Assembly call'd the Brethren to meet at *Dunfermling*, before the Parliament should meet: The Laird of *Pitfirren* Provost, had, on the King's Command, shut the Gates of the Town. *N. B. Pitfirren* some Years thereafter was found miraculously dead, he having

ving fallen from a Window of his own House from the Fourth Story; and they *charitably* conjectur'd, that he had thrown himself out of that Window: And likewise, he divines *charitably* a *secret Cause*, viz. a Jealousy; and concludes with a charitable Insinuation, viz. Colonel *Stewart* married his Lady *thereafter*. *Calderwood*, Page 187. But *Calderwood* very *loyally* forbears to inflict any of these miraculous Punishments on the *King*; tho' he remarks, that it was by His Order the *Ports were shut*.

HOWEVER the Brethren did zealously meet in the *Fields*: I do not say, that this was to frame the Fundamental Charter of *Field-Conventicles*; for that was of an older Date: But they hearing that the Parliament was to meet at *Linlithgow*, they appointed their Assembly to meet there, *before* the Parliament; and did so accordingly.

THE first Thing that the Brethren did there, was to admonish the Lords in particular of their *Duty*, in seeking for an Abrogation of some *late* Acts of Parliament. No doubt, the fore-mention'd Act, prohibiting any Person publickly or privately to speak *against* the *King*, the *Estate* and *Government*, was one; which *neither they nor their Forefathers could bear*.

THE Lords sent the *Brethren* to the *King*: The *King*, says *Calderwood*, taunted, threatened, and revil'd them, &c. The Brethren  
return



turn to the Lords, to put them in Mind of their Duty and Promises: The Lords answer'd, They must first have the publick Affairs settled; and then they would *work Wonders* for the Brethren. But the Ministers told the Lords, *That such Relenting would weaken the Cause, and discredit them* (the Lords) *before GOD and Men*: So Calderwood observes, That the Lords were more careful for their *own Estates*, than for the *Kirk of GOD*. O! what holy Zeal for a Civil War.

I now return to Mr. Gibson's Process. And here I justly remark, that even at *this Time*, there was a *Church*, as well as a *Kirk* in *Scotland*; for tho' there were too many of the Clergy at that Time, both *erroneous* and *hot-headed* (Two of the Beasts, which ordinarily enter the Ark by Pairs) yet there were both *reverent* and *good Men* of the Presbyterian Clergy, *who had not bowed their Knee to the fiery Baal*.

THE Noise made by the *hot Party*, did oft-times drown the still Voice of the *moderate Clergy*: But it is both unjust and uncharitable to give the same Judgment of the Righteous and Unrighteous. Yet there is too much of this Guilt incurr'd by some Writers, in upbraiding *Presbyterians* indefinitely, with the Faults of some *Presbyters*. A Fault, which I wish heartily were redress'd

in both Parties; and in my little Station, I have endeavour'd to do so.

IN this Period, when, by reason of the *Youth* and *Poverty* of King James, and the unhappy *Factions* among the Nobility, the State of *Scotland* did run into more Confusion, than in any other Period since the Reign of King Robert Bruce: Yet even then, and on this Occasion of the Parliament and Assembly at *Linlithgow*; there was a great Party of the Presbyterians, that were both loyal and faithful; and some of them who were wrong, did become penitent Converts: Such were *Dury* and *Rollock* (tho' formerly great Supporters of the *Ruthven-Road*) So were Mr. *Craig*, *Balcunquhal*, *Lawson* and *Galloway*, &c. And, in this Meeting at *Linlithgow*, Mr. *Craig*, preaching before the Parliament; he did exhort the Government to *Moderation and Mercy*; and the hotter Clergy to *Discretion and Charity*.

BUT *Calderwood*, in his 187 Page, says, That Mr. *Craig*, in that Sermon, did make a bitter Invective against (*N. B.*) the sincerest Sort of the Ministry; and wish'd the Ministers, and the Lords (their Patrons) to *Submission and Duty*; with a Sarcasm also against Mr. *Watson*, for his Submission to the King and Council. *Calderwood* further observes, That all this made the protesting Ministers to defend their Facts with the greater Vigour.



IN a Session of the Assembly Anno 1588, as was formerly mention'd, *Gibson* was suspended for Contumacy to the *Kirk*; but on his Compearance and professing, that it was not Contumacy, but his great *Affection* to the *Kirk*, which made him absent: The Assembly declar'd themselves satisfied with him, *Calderwood* Page 226. But not a Word, so much as an *Apology* to the *King*, whom the said *Gibson* had declar'd to be a greater Enemy to GOD and the *Kirk* than *Jezebel*, *ut supra*. Notwithstanding whereof, on the 22d of *November* 1590, the *King*, upon his Submission, did set him at Liberty. However, the moderate Presbyterians, as *Craig*, *Lawson*, *Dury*, &c. tho' they still oppos'd the *Bishops*; yet they condemn'd their hot-headed Brethren, and preached up *Loyalty* to the People.

I presume there is enough said to prove, that some Presbyterians were neither *Discreet* nor *Loyal* in their Carriage; as to *Gowry*, *Bothwell*, and the other Lords Sedition against the *King*; my Proofs being out of their own Histories. I have said perhaps too much, in so clear a Point; and if I should collect, what other *undoubted* Testimonies there are of their Sedition, or the Half of them; I would weary both my self and others: For one, Mr. *Black's* peculiar Acts of Sedition and Conspiracy, takes up most Part of 29 Pages of *Calderwood's* History, viz. from Page 329 to Page 357.

IN all these Debates, any Person, by comparing, will find, that the *hotter* Part of the Clergy, did pretend to, and assum'd more Exemption from the Civil Magistrate, and did inroach more on the just Power of Civil Magistrates, than ever the Council of *Trent* did allow to the Pope.

I have in this Reply restricted my Proofs to the Presbyterians, and the Authors cited by Mr. *Anderson*, *ut haberem confitentem reum*. But whoever desires to have a clear View of the *Spirit* of that Faction and Disorders of these Times, may consult Mr. *Johnstoun's* Continuation of *Buchanan*, in his *Historia Rerum Britannicarum & multarum aliarum ab Anno 1572 ad Annum 1628*, Amstel. Anno 1655. the most impartial Historian I ever read.

IN his Page 215 he hath these Words, *Impulit turbidos Concionatores, temeritas; (que illi hominum generi insita est) in Regem; velut purioris cultus pertaesum debacchantur; convitiis & probris insectantur; quasi Papismo jam palam faveret: E quorum numero David Black Minister Fani Andreæ, turbidus, & a vecordi facundiâ, infimis gratus in concione acerbissime queritur de actionibus Regis, Majestatem Regis imminuit, Fori & Judicum flagitia omnesque præter suos perstringit, & (per dementiam) de Elizabetha Angliæ Regina & de Anglicana Religione, multa audacter effutit: nec se, ullius præterquam*



quam Dei immortalis imperio, subesse jactitavit.

Black was imprisoned, and by fair Judgment condemn'd; but the King did change the Sentence to a Confinement beyond Northesk. *Johustoun* adds; Rex vocari ministrorum apocletos jussit: qui instructus a suis & preparatus in disputationibus & congressibus elicuit, multos eorum a Blacki temeritate furiosa non abhorreere.

Rex indignabundus eorum contumacia, cum negarent se posse in crimine Seditionis aut Proditionis ad causam disceptandam, in prima instantia, extra Synodum evocari, ideo Rex preconio prohibuit Conventus & Cætus teneri, & ut urbe excedant, monuit. Unde tumultum juarum partium Edinburgii excitarunt: & Bruceus Concionator prædicavit, nil reliquum esse nisi Communis Salutis Causâ arma caperent, Ecclesiæ subvenirent, & Duces ad ultionem deligerent. Nimia pietas acrius quam consultius tumultum excitavit: sed tumultus æstuans ad prætorium concurrunt in quo Rex & judices considebant, aditus globo armorum obsident, perstreperes gladium Gideonis pro Deo ac Ecclesia, &c.

In his Page 77, having narrated the Conspiracy of William Earl of Gowry, in Anno 1482, Page 78. Line 8. *Ministri scientes factam aperte esse conjurationem Procerum contra Regem, salutem & securitatem Reipublicæ, coacta Septembri proximo, Synodo, unanimi*

*consensu approbârunt tam exitiosam Conspira-  
tionem, vetueruntque sub anathematis pœna,  
ne Authores aliter quam Religionis & Liber-  
tatis Vindices celebrarentur, idque plebi in  
concionibus nuntiari placuit; pauci repre-  
benderunt Procerum in DEUM ac Princi-  
pem Rebellionem.*

AND Page 263 Anno 1597, we have the Hi-  
story of the Conspiracy by John Earl of Gowery,  
both agreeing almost in every thing with  
what I have taken from the publick Records;  
which demonstrates that the Historian had  
very full and exact Information of the whole  
Matter, as he hath faithfully transmitted the  
same to us.

THE same Author gives us another In-  
stance of the Moderation of the Presbyte-  
rian Ministers of these Times, Page 80, in  
these Words: *Mottafenellonio Regis Galliaë  
Legato extraordinario in Galliam abeunte,  
Rex ei convivium parari iussit. Ministri  
Edinburgenses pleni inconsideratissima teme-  
ritatis, præpostero ardore, Legatos Francicos  
in concionibus, atrocissime lacerârunt; & sa-  
crum legationis jus, inusitatâ rabie, temera-  
runt: & Ministrorum intempestivo decreto in-  
terposito, cives urbani, jejunium celebrârunt,  
ita ut aquam non gustarent; & conviva, qui  
jejunii diem non concelebrarunt, numero im-  
piorum habitis, param absuit, quin sacris in-  
terdicerentur.*



Mr. *Anderson* shews a very warm Side in favour of these, who endeavour to derogate from the *Truth* of this Conspiracy; and therefore brings in some *Doubts* against the Proofs in the Trial of *Robert Logan* of *Restalrig*; and says, That *Bishop Spotiswood* affirms, in the 115 Page of his History, *That this Narration would tempt any Body shrewdly to suspect, that the whole Business was a Fiction.*

A Reader, under a strong Prejudice, will readily take a *weak* Presumption for a *strong* Proof; and yet a Great Jury, and a Justice-Court, did find the Proof *relevant*: And the Arch-Bishop was One of those who signed *Sprot's* Confession at his *Death*.

AND Arch-Bishop *Abbot* (then Dr. *Abbot*) in a printed Narrative charitably emitted by him, and printed at *London* 1609, doth show a full Conviction of the *Truth* of that whole Process, with so serious Piety, that I hope I may recommend it to Mr. *Anderson's* reading, or any other *Infidel* as to *Gowrie's* and *Restalrig's* Conspiracies: Not so much for perswading him of the *Truth* of the Fact, (for that was not so much as doubted by any One of the Jury nor Judges) but as an *alter-native Medicine* for his *Principles*. I have given in the little Book to the Advocates publick Library at *Edinburgh*.

Mr. *Anderson* is pleas'd, in 322 Page of his *Defence* to notice my mentioning the *Magical Spells*, which were found in *Gowrie's* *Girdle*

die. What I there said, is a Truth; I hope I shall yet find them: And if I do, I shall consign them in the same Repository, for his, or any other Person's Use that pleases: Not so much to reflect on unhappy Gowry, as to confirm the sacred Truth, That Rebellion being as the *Sin of Witchcraft*; it is spiritual Wisdom to shun the Imputation of the One, as well as the Other.

I shall say nothing to the Four Topicks subjoin'd in the Close of Mr. *Anderson's* Paper, Page 322, very cunningly insinuating, That there was *no Probability* in the *whole Conspiracy*: And the more, that after he seemingly rejected the whole Four Topicks, he subjoins a *counter* Topick, Page 323, to clear the Probability, and as an *Apology* for his own insinuating, that Gowry was a *Witch* and his Brother a *Mad-Man*; by bringing in *Spotiswood* to assert, that *both of them* were *wise, sober, and virtuous Gentlemen*. And indeed it is no Wonder, that Mr. *Bruce* should be as *favourable* to Gowry as Arch-Bishop *Spotiswood* was: For the Bishop did speak in *Civility*; but Mr. *Bruce* might speak upon *certain Knowledge*, he having been Gowry's Pedagogue; and so knowing better than Arch-Bishop *Spotiswood*, both what he *learn'd*, and what he *inclin'd* to. But I may be allow'd to regret, that Mr. *Anderson*, who says, *He no longer suspects the Truth of the Conspiracy*, should stretch his Wit to prove, that there



there was a *Difficulty* to believe it to be a *True Conspiracy*.

As for his *Οριαντος*; wherein, he says, *He hath said more than enough to Vindicate* the Presbyterian Ministers: If he meant *all* Presbyterians, *Quid jactat gloriosus miles?* for very many of them did not need his Defence: If he mean but *Four*, even tho' the Epithet *Some* were adjoin'd, — *Vix Priamustanti*. And I must say, he is not a skilful Shepherd, who brings in a *few* rotten Sheep to infect a *numerous* Flock.

BUT I declare, that it is with Regret, I found myself forc'd to bring in *too many* Presbyterians, yea and too many *General Assemblies* of them, in my Self-defence from being a *Liar*, or a confident Asserter of *Untruths*: And if he can yet Vindicate them, I shall gladly disclaim my Informations.

THE Writer of Queen *Elizabeth's Annals*, a true Protestant, an Admirer of Queen *Elizabeth*, and a zealous *English* Man, narrating this of *Gowry's Conspiracy*, in the 3d Book, Page 40. printed at *London* in 1682, says, "That the King, in a general Meeting of the Nobility and States, had declared, That *Gowry's* Action was *traiterously* done: Notwithstanding whereof (*says the Author*) the *Ministers*, in a Meeting convoked by their *own Authority*, declared, that it was *most just*; and did hold it fit, that those who  
" would

" would not *approve* thereof, should under-  
 " go the Censure of *Excommunication*.

" AND Page 52, he says, " That divers who  
 " had compacted with *Gowry*, was now *again*  
 " plotting new Stratagems, to get the King  
 " of *Scots* into their Power: That the King  
 " sent to apprehend *Gowry*, who obstinately  
 " refus'd, and did defend himself in his Lodg-  
 " ing, but in Two Hours he was forc'd to  
 " yield, and was led Prisoner: That in the  
 " mean Time, his Accomplices did seize the  
 " Castle of *Stirling*; and that *Gowry* was ar-  
 " raign'd and found guilty of Lese-Majesty,  
 " Page 54; and was therefore beheaded,  
 " Page 55. And that notwithstanding there-  
 " of, the Assembly of *Ecclesiasticks* in *Scot-*  
 " *land*, arrogating to themselves a Power to  
 " Call Assemblies, received these Things with  
 " such Impatience, that they did *leave* their  
 " Country, and pour'd out Complaints *against*  
 " the King, through *England*: But that Q,  
 " *Elizabeth* with a deaf Ear neglected them,  
 " deeming of them as Authors of *Innova-*  
 " *tions*. Page 71.

" AND *Anno* 1600, Page 287, that Author  
 " Says, " That at the same Time was prepared  
 " in *Scotland*, a deadly *Sword* by the *Ruth-*  
 " *vens*, being Two Brothers, treacherously  
 " seducing the King to their House, they  
 " had not come short in performing of their  
 " Designs, had not the Protector of Kings,  
 " by the Fortitude and loyal Endeavours of

" *John*



“ *John Ramsay* and *Sir Thomas Erskine*, turned the Destruction upon the Traitors.

THUS much (and too much it is) I judg'd my self oblig'd to publish, with regard to a learn'd Minister's *Digression*, whereby he call'd me forth publickly to a single Combat, Page 317, finding the whole Body of the Adversaries Force too small an Object for his *Revenge*; And poor I, was the weak Antagonist openly challeng'd.

BUT since my Hand is in, I will show my Respect to him, in noticing a short *dark Thrust* aim'd at me; but what would terminate on the *Noblest Object* of some Presbyterians their Anger. It is in the 12th Page of his Book: I shall touch it but slenderly; for I find the Thrust was given in Mistake.

HE, in *Civility* to Her Majesty's Letter, dated *February 4th 1703*, and in *Kindness* to the Queen, will Vindicate Her Letter, from being contrary to the Recommendation given by Her to Her Council at that Time; But withal he mentions, *That it was Nationally constructed, to be design'd for Overturning of Presbytery; and was in Opposition to all Her Majesty's Promises and Assurances.*

AND this Purport of the Letter was so strong, that it needed Mr. *Anderson's* Commentary and Vindication. So I leave him to his Thanks: But if he please, with some Explanation of his Meaning: For it would seem, that

That he thought the Letter so clear in Favour of *Episcopacy*, that it did revive that *Spirit* in many; and that the Letter did produce a worshipful *new Rising-Sun*. So far, well.

BUT the *medium* subjoined, is not intelligible by my weak Capacity: For, if the Letter was so palpably favourable for *Episcopacy*; then, by the Rule of Contraries, the other Member of the Distinction, *viz.* Her Majesty's *Secret Will*, behov'd to be for *Presbytery*.

FOR Mr. *Anderson* immediately subjoins, That Her Majesty had given all possible *Promises* and *Affurances* for *Presbytery*. So that the Opposition there, did stand betwixt Two *revealed Wills*; The One Will declared by publick Acts of Parliament; the Other reveal'd by a Letter to the Privy-Council. And that he may the better explicate this to his Friend; may it please him to know, that a Party of Scholars do maintain, That, tho' GOD declares (by all the Languages wherein the Bible is translated) in the 1. of *Timothy*, 2d and 4th; *That He will have all Men to be saved*; I presume Mr. *Anderson* doth not think that *no Man* will be damn'd. And there are some Divines, who solve this, by distinguishing between GOD's *revealed* and *secret Will*. And indeed this notable Distinction, was then propagated to raise a *pious Fear* of a *double Will* in the Queen.



I having had then the Honour to be Her Majesty's Secretary in that Parliament, did with very great Confidence assert what then I spoke: Because I did believe, Her Majesty did make no use of such a double Faculty, either in Her Theology, Morals, or Politics.

F I N I S.

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**T**HE Historical Account of the Conspiracies by the Earls of Gowry against K. James the Sixth, is sold at the Shop of James Watson, One of Her Majesty's Printers, opposite to the Lucken-booths; and by George Stewart, at the Book and Angel, a little above the Cross. Edinburgh.